

Personnel.

5. Recently, I availed myself of two months' privilege leave from the 3rd November, 1930, and Mr. A. Venkatarama Aiyar, Judge, High Court, acted as Dewan during the period. Since we last met, there have been some changes in the higher ranks of the service. Mr. Alfred Vipin reverted to the British service after three years of useful work here as Chief Engineer. We have been fortunate in securing as his successor Mr. J. S. Westerdale whose experience as Sanitary Engineer will be particularly helpful in our schemes of water supply and drainage. The services of Mr. E. G. McAlpine have been secured on loan from the Government of Mysore as Director of Public Instruction for a term of three years. The Devaswom Commissionership, left vacant by the sad and untimely death of Mr. O. S. Ramaswamy Aiyar, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. R. Venkatarama Dikshitar. Mr. N. Nilakanta Pillai has been appointed Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. S. K. Mahadeva Aiyar. Mr. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar, who has relinquished the State service, has been succeeded by Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai as Chief Account Officer and *ex-officio* Financial Secretary to Government. Dr. K. Sankara Menon, the Director of Ayurveda, retired from the service at the end of Kumbham 1105. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson, Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner, having proceeded on combined leave for seven months from the 1st Kumbham 1106, Mr. R. Krishna Pillai, Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, has been appointed to act for him and Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, Secretary to Government, has been appointed to act as Dewan Peishkar at Quilon.

Financial Position.

6. In 1105 we estimated for a revenue of Rs. 248.07 lakhs and an expenditure out of revenue of Rs. 244.94 lakhs, resulting in a surplus of Rs. 3.13 lakhs. We actually realised Rs. 247.23 lakhs and spent therefrom Rs. 240.31 lakhs, the surplus being Rs. 6.92 lakhs. The revenue of the year was less than that of 1104 by Rs. 3.93 lakhs, while the expenditure exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 12.51 lakhs. Capital receipts from the assignment of lands amounted to Rs. 4.43 lakhs and the capital expenditure not charged to revenue was Rs. 15.91 lakhs. The net result was that the Government Balance which stood at Rs. 170.13 lakhs at the beginning of the year was reduced to Rs. 165.57 lakhs at its close. The fluid balance in cash and gilt-edged securities which stood at Rs. 271.99 lakhs at the beginning of the year became Rs. 267.61 lakhs at its close.

Compared with the revenue of 1104, there was a marked fall of Rs. 2.08 lakhs under Land Revenue. This was the result of the postponement of the collection of tax on *Kandukrishi* lands. The working of the railway from Shencotta to Trivandrum resulted in a net loss of Rs. 0.11 of a lakh. Stamps and Registration brought in less receipts

chiefly on account of the prevailing economic depression. The expenditure on Devaswoms and the Miscellaneous Political Expenditure were higher on account of the extraordinary items under those heads, *viz.*, the *Murajapom* and the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy.

For 1106, the budget forecast is for a revenue of Rs. 250·79 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 248·77 lakhs yielding a revenue surplus of Rs. 2·02 lakhs. But on account of the prevailing economic depression and as the effect of the anti-drink agitation, Government anticipate a fall in their estimated receipts. As against this a reduction in the budgetted expenditure is also expected. It is now too early, however, to attempt a forecast of the extent of the fluctuations.

Economic Conditions.

7. All the world over, economic depression prevails and Travancore has not escaped its effects. At no time in recent years have the prices of the staple articles of local produce such as paddy, pepper, cocoanut, rubber and tapioca fallen so low. Our economic revival depends to a large extent upon the increased buying capacity of our foreign customers and no action taken by ourselves alone can accelerate the economic revival of the foreign countries which buy our goods. The position is anyway serious and the actual conditions deserve to be studied. Government therefore propose to appoint a committee to investigate and report upon the causes of the present trade depression so far as it affects Travancore and to propose measures that might be adopted to meet the situation. One direction, however, in which Government propose to take immediate action with a view to afford temporary relief is by a liberal grant of loans to agriculturists. Government accordingly propose to sanction an allotment of Rs. 1½ lakhs under Agricultural Loans in addition to the Rs. 2 lakhs allotted for the purpose in the budget for 1106.

Trade.

8. The total value of external trade during the year was Rs. 20·65 crores against Rs. 21·13 crores in 1104. Exports formed 55 per cent. and imports 45 per cent. of the total volume of trade, the corresponding percentages for 1104 being 56 and 44 respectively. The percentage of sea-borne trade to the total volume fell from 32·30 to 31·16, but there was no fall in the number or tonnage of the vessels that called at the Travancore ports. 862 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 1·28 millions called at the four ports together against 822 vessels with a total tonnage of 1·26 millions in 1104. The number of steamers was 525 against 526 in the previous year, and the number of country craft increased from 296 to 337. At Alleppey alone, 450 steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 1·02 millions called in 1105 against 420 steamers with an aggregate of 0·93 million tons in 1104. Of the above, 110 were